

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CVIS,PFOR,HU

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES: MESTERHAZY CASE

REF: A. BUDAPEST 2551; B. STATE 189474

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ARMITAGE

1. MESTERHAZY CASE (REFA) CAUSES US REAL CONCERN IN TERMS
TRADE REFORM ACT. CONGRESSMAN VANIK'S OFFICE NOW DIRECTLY
CONCERNED. ALSO, INITIAL REACTION OF SENATE FINANCE
COMMITTEE STAFFER TO REF A REPORT WAS THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD
ON BASIS MESTERHAZY CASE, MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH
VIEW TOWARDS AMENDING TRADE REFORM ACT TO DELETE MFN FOR
HUNGARY UNTIL MESTERHAZY CASE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.
(FYI: GIVEN FACT THAT FINANCE COMMITTEE LAST WEEK VOTED
AMENDMENT TO TRADE REFORM ACT CONDITIONING MFN AND EXIM
CREDITS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON SETTLEMENT IN FULL OF OUT-
STANDING CLAIMS, WE CANNOT DISMISS POSSIBILITY OF MESTER-
HAZY CASE HAVING SIMILAR EFFECT. END FYI)

2. ON SEPTEMBER 18, ANDREWS CALLED IN HUNGARIAN DCM KOVACS
AND RAISED THE MESTERHAZY CASE (SEPTTEL) STRESSING VERY
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ADVERSE EFFECTS THIS CASE COULD HAVE ON US-HUNGARIAN

RELATIONS IF NOT QUICKLY AND QUIETLY RESOLVED BY GRANTING
ZSOLT MESTERHAZY AND FAMILY EXIT PAPERS. BELIEVE YOU

SHOULD FOLLOW UP THIS APPROACH PERSONALLY WITH NAGY. GOH
MUST BE MADE AWARE FULLY AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL OF
SERIOUSNESS OF CASE, AND MUTUAL INTEREST IN ITS EARLY
RESOLUTION, BEFORE IT BECOMES A PUBLIC ISSUE, QUITE
POSSIBLY LINKED WITH TRADE REFORM ACT.

3. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO EARLY
REPLY REF B, WHICH REQUESTED FULL UPDATE ON STATUS OF
DIVIDED FAMILIES. YOUR MESTERHAZY REPORT RATHER IMPLIES
A PICTURE OF HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION THAT IS LESS OPTIMISTIC
THAN WE HAD SUPPOSED. WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT VARKONYI IS
GENERALLY CORRECT IN STATING THAT GOH HAS ATTEMPTED TO
REUNITE DIVIDED FAMILIES INVOLVING PARENTLESS CHILDREN
HUSBAND AND WIFE, OR PARENTS. IF THERE ARE, AS VARKONYI
SAYS "THOUSANDS OF CASES" SIMILAR TO MESTERHAZY CASE
(PARA 3 REF A) DIVIDED FAMILIES SITUATION IS FAR WORSE
THAN A LIST OF A FEW DOZEN CASES WOULD SHOW. WOULD
APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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